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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Received & Inspected

DEC 19 2016

FCC Mail Room

December 12, 2016

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

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HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE

Subcommittee on Tactical Air and
Land Forces

Subcommittee on Readiness

HOUSE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

Subcommittee on Conservation
and Forestry

Subcommittee on Biotechnology,
Horticulture, and Research

HOUSE SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Subcommittee on Agriculture, Energy
and Trade

Subcommittee on Contracting and
Workforce

RE: New York STATE'S PETITION FOR EXPEDITED WAIVER OF THE CONNECT
AMERICA PHASE II AUCTION RULES – WC Docket No. 10-90

Dear Secretary Dortch:

I am writing to express my support regarding the state of New York's waiver request regarding CAF Phase II funding in WC Docket No. 10-90 referenced above.

The district I represent includes several rural counties that rank, unfortunately, among the highest in New York for the percentage of citizens that are either unserved or underserved.

Since I have been in office, I have been an outspoken advocate for creating policies that help to meet rural America's unfulfilled broadband needs and I believe that granting of the New York Waiver will provide additional incentives and synergies in helping ensure unmet universal service goals are reached.

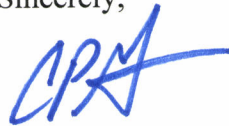
New York's grant program, like the FCC's CAF Phase II program, provides a reverse auction process that will allow various entities to bid on serving these unserved and underserved areas and is not limited to certain technologies and is geared towards providing "future proof" and scalable networks in order to meet current and future broadband needs.

Granting of the Petition will allow for the establishment of a single auction process that will provide for a greater level of clarity and certainty for providers concerning whether to participate in any auction program. Conversely, two separate and uncoordinated programs would introduce uncertainty and would likely have negative consequences for potential broadband deployment in the CAF Territories, as described in the Petition. A single auction process also provides far more cost efficiencies and financial synergies in meeting the challenges of bringing broadband services to those underserved and unserved areas of the state, which can be passed along to the very consumers whose contributions in New York taxes and contributions to the federal CAF program make such funding possible.

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It is for these reasons that I encourage the FCC to expeditiously grant the New York Waiver to align the FCC and State programs. This would give the CAF Phase II territories the highest chance for receiving high quality broadband.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "CPA" with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Chris Gibson
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

CPG:atm